

Message Text

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50

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AF-06

AS-01 /099 W

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R 171310Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECSTATE WASHDC 1138

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3581

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MA, IR, LY

SUBJ: COMORO ISLANDS AND IRAN

1. AS DISCUSSED IN MENDENHALL-MIKLOS CORRESPONDENCE, WE HAVE RAISED MATTER OF FORTHCOMING COMORO INDEPENDENCE WITH CHIEF OF MFA'S AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIVISION SHAHBAZI. HE WAS SURPRISINGLY WELL INFORMED ABOUT ISLAND'S SITUATION AND PROSPECTS AND HAD ALREADY PREPARED TWO REPORTS ON SUBJECT FOR HIS SUPERIORS.

2. GOI KNOWS COMOROS WILL BE DESPERATELY NEEDY AFTER INDEPENDENCE AND WILL HAVE TO LOOK FOR HELP ANYWHERE THEY CAN. SHAHBAZI THOUGHT IT NATURAL FOR ILANDS TO SEEK ARAB HELP AND WAS RELAXED ABOUT ABDALLAH'S VISIT TO LIBYA AND RETURN VISIT BY LIBYAN ECONOMIC MISSION WHICH HE UNDERSTANDS IS SCHEDULED OR RECENTLY COMPLETED. BULK OF ASSISTANCE FOR TIME BEING, HE THINKS, WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO COME FROM FRANCE WHICH WILL DECIDE QTE WITHIN
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FEW WEEKS UNQTE LEVEL OF ITS SUPPORT.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT WHILE GOI IS GENERALLY INTERESTED IN COMORO DEVELOPMENTS, IT IS NEITHER OVERLY CONCERNED WITH RADICAL ARABS' INTERESTS IN ISLANDS NOR EAGER TO VOLUNTEER ECONOMIC AID. IF NEW COMORO GOVERNMENT MADE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR PROJECT AID, GOI NO DOUBT WOULD CONSIDER IT ALONG WITH OTHER REQUESTS RECEIVED. AS FAR AS ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC LINKS IS CONCERNED, GOI PROBABLY WOULD BE WILLING TO DO SO IF APPROACHED BY COMORANS, AS IT HAS DONE RECENTLY WITH OTHER SMALL AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WHERE IRAN'S INTERESTS ARE MINIMAL. ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH IRAN MIGHT PROVIDE COMOROS WITH MEASURE OF PRESTIGE AND MORAL SUPPORT BUT WOULD PROBABLY NOT HELP MUCH IN OVERCOMING THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

HELMS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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